[TFR 14-1a,b] **Letter re I.P V. News Request for Information**

Hello Dear Sirs! **By complete chance I read your announcement about I.P.V. News looking for American POWs in Vietnam and Korea.** Although it is very difficult for me to remember about it, I think my information will interest you. I am now 27. In 1985 I ended my service in the Soviet Army. Because of circumstances beyond my control in particular from a company commander and unit commander, I was excluded from VLKSM [All-Union Lenin Young Communist League](which I was very thankful for). After months of considering me insane, they sent me to a psychiatric hospital. Since I served in Moscow, I went to the 2nd Provincial Hospital (called Yakovlova, but I don't exactly remember the name, on the Chekov side of Moscow). They hid the name from us. In section 13 they conducted investigations on myself and about 10 servicemen of similar importance, if they could be called investigations. It was actually torture. In this section was ward 1 (the little regime) as we nicknamed it. They did not let anyone from the hospital section into this ward, although in other wards movement was free. Near the little regime there always sat a husky hospital attendant with a rubber club. They released, as required, patients from the ward to go to the toilet. [TFR 14-2]

The patients in the ward were [word illeg]. In general everyone was in severe condition, but one of them "airborne", as we teased him, always stuck out in my mind. He was a 40-43 year old man, though not beyond his years, was all grey. He slept in the ward opposite the door and when you went by he looked ok. In most cases when you managed to see him, he was sitting on the bed rocking back and forth. Sometimes he hid his face in a pillow and laid still. In contrast to the other patients of this ward, he was not remote, but was clearly vital. Sometimes it happened, that we would meet in the toilet. With gestures he asked for a smoke. For some reason when I gave him a cigarette he thanked me in English "sankyu". I could not understand the reason for his knowledge of English. As a rule, they investigated soldiers from 1 to 3 months, sometimes longer, but citizens made up the basic part of the section. As a rule they were BOMZh [without a permanent residence]. They in reality were sick, but were absolutely healthy people. [Trans. note - this could mean that they were mentally ill, but physically healthy; or, though less likely, were physically sick,while being listed in the records as being healthy] They were there for years. The ones who were in that section the longest said, that the "airborne" fellow served in Vietnam, that he was an American soldier. He was taken prisoner and went out of his mind from torture. I went to the hospital at the end of May and by June and July they started to let us walk outside.

[TFR 14-3a,b]

It was possible to get to know him. By a twist of fate my countryman from Donetski, Drobyshev Igor, was with me in the section. Together we were drafted into the Army, went to training, but then served in different military units. In order to get to know him we sometimes called "airborne" to us and treated him to cigarettes and tried to talk to him. However, he only mumbled "no" and "sposibo"[trans. note - the last O in "sposibo" had a stress mark which would have been used to denote someone who was American or British]. We learned that phrase [airborne] while talking with him. Outwardly, standing before me almost true to life, he was very attractive. Proper facial features, with a broad chin, a little bit of an aquiline nose, and a spotted wrinkled face. Tall but thin and round shouldered. But this was all the consequence of medical treatment of our Ministry of Health. I can only guess what they pushed him to, if they worked all sorts of things on us "fliers". It started from [1 word illeg] to Aminazine and finished with sulfa up to 10-12 cc each time. Sometimes after such an injection the patient was catatonic for 3 days, and after a "haloid" [injection] complete disorientation followed. The fact that I am writing this letter to you is a secret from my wife. She doesn't know anything and God forbid, that she ever find out. I don't hope for any kind of reward. Simply put if this is a little bit of help to you in your noble effort I am glad. Understand that [TFR 14-4,5]

in Russia and Ukraine there are people who sincerely love and respect Americans. I wrote my mother-in-law's return address on the envelope - since I decided to change my place of residence. If you need me for a more complete and argumentative story, she will know my place of residence. Sincerely yours, Aleksandr [signature] Vladimirovich Minaylov

P.S. Excuse me for my mistakes in the text and for the little bit which was written on the substance of the

question. I couldn't give anyone my letter to review, and to describe what is happening is very difficult. In general I am not fond of writing. Excuse me, if that is not so. Respectfully [signature] [TFR 14-6]

[envelope] IPV News, Incorporated 30 Farragut St. Uniontown, PA 15401-4326 USA

(from) 332139 Zaporozhskaya Oblast' Zaporozhskiy Region Yul'evka Shevechenko St. 16 Minaylovu, Aleksandr Vi [TFR 14-7]

Dear Sir, Having read your notice in the newspaper I want to share my recollections which might be of help to you. I am now 26 years old and I live in Kiev. Until 1977 I lived in the city of Zaporozh'e. When I was a child I spent time at my grandfather's dacha outside the city. There was a friend and long time acquaintance [of grandfather] by the name of Karnatskij at a dacha nearby. There were neighborly visits characterized by leisurely conversation and tasting of fresh wine. And thus Karnatskij's friend sticks in my mind. For some reason, somehow in passing they said that he was an American, not a communist, who stayed after the war. He was quite heavy with a dark complexion and dark, graying hair. This was my childhood perception but his dark complexion and how he talked stayed in my mind. It was normal Russian but with an accent, not exactly the way the Pribalts speak. He pronounced a hard letter "G" while natives of Zaporozh'e under the influence of the southern Ukraine use a soft letter "G". He was called Timokha/Timokhaya. I remember especially well the summer of 1975 (I was 10 years old). That was when the Soyuz-Apollo crews were in space. During the flight or somewhat later Karnatskij came with his friend who was somewhat drunk, very pleased and happy. At the table they proposed toasts to Soviet-American friendship and to peace. Other such details I don't remember but all the same I was very young. After the move to Kiev, I visited my grandfather's dacha as before in the summer. However I rarely saw Karnatskij or his friend. Grandfather died in 1989, Karnatskij died about 1986. They sold the dacha after grandfather's death. [TFR 14-8] [Airmail envelope with a Russian stamp and a Ukrainian Postmark] To: USA IPV News Inc. Predslavinskaya 30 Farragut Str, Uniontown Pensilvania, 15401 USA Fm: Alexey Plotnikov Predslavinskaja 38, Apt 109, Kiev, 252006, Ukraine Ex-USSR

[Addresses in English on the Envelope] [TFR 14-9a]

IPV News Inc. 30 Farragut Street Uniontown, Pennsylvania, 15401-4326 Pavlenko, Valerij Petrovich 17 Larina St., Apt 56, (Tel 9-28-57) Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskij, 683002 (Passport VII-BK No. 696299, issued by Vasilkovskij OVD Kiev Oblast' Aug 6 1983)

Regarding the newspaper article about the search for missing American civilians in "NABAT", issue 18/1992 by Sergej Melnikov, I have information available which I consider necessary to report. From 1978-1979, I was imprisoned because of a letter addressed to the Chairman of the Constitional Committee of the USSR, L. Brezhnev, demanding government reforms. A criminal case was fabricated, alleging I had unlawfully stored a small-caliber carbine, T03-17. I was sentenced to AV261/5, an institution in SUSUMAN, Magadansk. At first I worked individually, to create the appearance of repentance in front of the KGB. As a result, I was assigned work as a janitor in the surgical ward of the prison hospital, which was attached to the institution. From October 1978 to April 1979, I got to know a former American civilian of Hungarian descent (?) Willie, who had been transported under armed guard to the hospital from one of the Magadansk camps. He died soon after from a cancerous tumor, but he managed to tell me the following: "I am a missing American. My wife and son are in the USA. For personal reasons (business), I was in Austria right after the war. I was seized by Soviet Counter-intelligence 'SMERSH' and within 24 hours was taken by plane to the USSR. I was quickly sentenced to 25 years imprisonment, allegedly for undermining the economic power of the USSR, because I had hard currency on me when I was arrested. I attempted to escape with other prisoners, but we were caught. In the 1950's, my case was reviewed and the charges dropped due to a lack of evidence. But I was not fully rehabilitated, because while I was 'on the run' I had stolen foodstuffs. For this I received a separate sentence. After I was freed, I worked for several years in a television studio. But I was again imprisoned after committing the economic crime of embezzling government funds on a huge scale. By all appearances, I will soon die. During my years of freedom, I didn't attempt any searches for my family in the USA or any contact with the American authorities. It was impossible." You have already noticed that I haven't mentioned the last name of the American with whom I talked so freely. The reason is that almost 15 years have passed and I

cannot remember his name exactly. However, I am 100 percent sure that I can pick it out of a list of the prisoners who died in the surgical section of the Magadan hospital AV261/5 between October 1978 and April 1979. (His last name starts with the letter 'M', it is a short name, Hungarian, or Czech?). I am absolutely sure that M. was a Czech. [TFR 14-9b] I just need a push or prompt [to remember], especially since no more than 10 people died during that time. (I was freed on Certificate Serial VN No. 014092). So, if I can review the requested list, then the biography of one of the dead American citizens can be completed to the smallest detail using material from his criminal cases, which are in the Archives of the MVD, Russia. 1 July 1992 Respectfully, [Signature] [Envelope] [TFR 14-10]

To: Minsk 39 Myasnakova St. Newspaper Editorial Office NABAT Who: President, IPV News Inc. Sergej Melnikov

From: V.P. Pavlenko 17 Larina St., Apt 56 Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskij 683002 220048 [addressee zip code] [TFR 14-11]

Dear President Mr. Mel'nikov, having read your appeal to citizens of the Ukraine and the CIS I hasten to inform you that I, Shchurko, Mikhail Iosifovich, serving my sentence for my political convictions in the Krasnoyarsk Kraj in 1949-1950 met with political prisoners, or rather, sentenced Japanese and Korean prisoners of war and conversed with them. They told me that along with them, several Americans arrived at the labor camp [Lagpunkt] who had been prisoners of war of either the Japanese or the Koreans, I don't remember. They [Americans, Japanese, Koreans] all then became prisoners of the Russians.

I think that in the archives at the address shown below you will be able to find the surnames and possibly the fates of some of your fellow countrymen.

Krasnoyarsk Kraj Station Reshoty, p/ya 235/10-2

my address:

Ukraine L'vovskaya Obl. Radekhov [city] E. Konoval'tsa St. Bldg 2a, apt 6 Shchurko Mikhail Iosifovich

06 April 1992

[TFR 14-12]

[Airmail Envelope with a Radekhov postmark]

To: IPV News Inc. 30 Farragut Str., Uniontown Pensilvania, 15401, U.S.A. [above in English, remainder below in Russian] Pr[esident] Sergej V. Mel'nikov

Fm: 292130 Ukraine L'vovskaya Obl. c[ity] Radekhov Konoval'tsa St. 2a, apt 6 Shchurko Mikhail Iosifovich

[TFR 14-13a,b]

Dear Sergej, I know of two cities and a network of prisons in these two cities where until 1985 (possibly some are still kept there) they kept American soldiers who had fought in South Korea. I myself was not in prison there and did not see anything there (as you write). I'm not able to tell you but as far as it is known to me, information is available in these areas about where their former prisoners, especially foreigners, were settled. If you aren't able to get information about prisoners from them, it seems to me that you might be able to appeal to the local population by radio. As they say, "You can get anywhere if you know how to use your tongue". I think that the liberated prisoners settled not far from the detention sites because during their post- confinement lives

[TFR 14-14]

or during resettlement they were able to live there with families. In any case, you will be able to conduct a more purposeful search if you know the location of these prisons. If you need the addresses of these two prisons I will be glad to help you (of course for your promised reward). I received your letter on 13 June and am answering right away. I am awaiting your letter or call.

With respect,

Vladimir Miziok

P.S. Your letter took so long getting here probably because you

wrote down the wrong Zip Code.

My address: 287200 Vinnitskaya Obl. Nemirov 5 Vaputika St. Apt 7 Miziok, V.T.

[TFR 14-15]

[Envelope with a cache of a moth, stamp and Nemirov postmark]

To: Zaporozhskaya Obl. Kamenka-Dneprovskaya 139 Ezhikova St. Mel'nikov, S.V.

Fm: 332600 Nemirov

[TFR 14-16a,b]

Hello Dear Sergej Vladimirovich! I read your corporation's article in the newspaper and called your representative Derevitskij in Kiev. You have a meeting planned for 25-31 June 1992 in Zaporozh'e with the leaders of AvtoZAZ on organizing an auto race [to/in] Tavrin. Having read the article about your conversation with Totner I understand that you are a very busy person and that a meeting with you is not possible. Therefore I will describe for you the locations of our camps where there were some Americans in accordance with the questions set forth in your letter from Kamenka-Dneprovskaya.

1) In 1949 in the Stalinskaya Oblast, in the Aroletarek Rajon where I lived were two POW camps. There were prisoners from various European countries, Poles, Rumanians, Hungarians, Germans, and Americans. At that time I lived several hundred meters from the first camp. The second camp was about one to one and a half kilometers away. The first influx of prisoners was at the end of summer. At that place were long barracks built of uncut stone [TFR 14-17a,b]

with roofs covered with [red?] tile. In the first years the burials of the prisoners were in a trench that the prisoners had dug by hand of about 12-15 meters in length. At dusk the bodies of the prisoners wrapped in dark cloth were carried there and the poor fellows were dropped into the pit. During the winter the trench was not covered up. Sometimes the bodies were brought there on a light carriage which was harnessed to a horse. The fence was enclosed by barbed wire and at a glance it appeared to be leaning over.

2) I was 18 years old at that time and all of this was seen by both myself and my mother.

3) How did I know that there were Americans. The camp commandant was a captain who was shortly afterward promoted to major. He had a bobbing gait and us kids as a joke called him "Chizhik-Pyzhik". At that time we had an investigator living in our apartment and the camp commandant used to come visit him. In conversations with the investigator and my mother he talked about camp life. In addition, he asked mother for her sewing machine. We had a pre- revolutionary Singer sewing machine. Mother gave the machine to the camp and they used it to sew on. [TFR 14-18a,b] A German prisoner who was a tailor used to come to our apartment. He took my measurements and sewed for me a warm jacket, pants and a coat from other fabric in a herringbone pattern. I didn't have any clothes what so ever at that time. The investigator regretted for some reason the death of one American. He was buried in a separate grave. In

the last years, the end of 1950 and the beginning of 1951, they buried the prisoners in separate graves which were very shallow and then covered with small mounds. They placed crosses and other markings made from makeshift materials. In the second camp Doctor Meretko worked. After the war he worked with my sister in the hospital. Meretko told my sister that they had an American professor die [in the camp]. They came for him in order to take the deceased home but our people did not permit it. They buried him in a separate grave. In the spring over the course of three or more years after the camps were disbanded, relatives, wives and mothers, of the deceased prisoners came to pay their respects. These were women, Germans, Rumanians, [TFR 14-19a,b]

Hungarians and others but no Americans. Many of these women spend the night with us on arrival [1 or 2 words illegible]. One German woman tracked down the grave of her husband because she was told that he was buried next to an American. She found this out from a prisoner who had returned home. The last time that the women came a section of the graves had been leveled. Eventually all the graves were leveled off but they still came for the next three years or so after that to honor their dead relatives. There, I have briefly answered the questions you gave me in your letter. I don't live in the Stalinskaya oblast now but in the Zaporozhskaya oblast. The prisoners of these camps built a club and other structures in the [Tubenyovskij] Rajon. The club at the [main mine or mine "Kapital'naya"] was wholly built by Germans who had been in the Stalingrad Cauldron in [Von] Paulus' army. I wrote you an 18 page letter but since we didn't meet I rewrote it in two pages since I couldn't fit it into an envelope. I'm retired now and am in my 70s. Mother died last year at the age of 97. I'm a doctor by profession. Sergej Vladimirovich, if its possible, speak with the AvtoZAZ administration about the apportionment of a "Tavria" car to me for which I will pay in cash. Regards, Timofeev, Yurij Leont'evich 1 June 92 [TFR 14-20]

Yu. L. Timofeev Post. Kirkova Akimovskoj Rajon Zaporozhskaya Oblast' Ukraine

Dear Yuri Leontevich, our corporation thanks you for the report you gave by telephone about the group of US POWs that you saw. We are very thankful and would much appreciate it if you will write a letter about the meeting in detail. Please answer these questions: When, Where, Under what circumstances did you see these people, How old are you, Who else with you saw these POWs and most importantly - How do you know they were Americans? After receiving your answers, which we ask you not to delay, our corporation may be able to send a TV reporter in the fall to do a video-piece on your interview. Please send your answer to this address:

322600, Zaporozhskaya Oblast' City of Kamenka-Dneprovskaya, Ezhikova St., House 139 Sergej Melnikov

Respectfully,

Executive Director of the Corporation "I.P.V. News" P. Helm. [TFR 14-21]

[Envelope] [handwritten] SEALED [remainder illegible]

Registered R No. 2 Kirilovka

to: 322600, Ukraine Zaporozhskaya Oblast' City Kamenka-Dneprovskaya St Ezhikova, House 139 Melnikov, Sergej

322275 Zaporozhskaya Oblast' Akimovskij Rajon City Kirilovka, 75 Noskovo St Yu. L. Timofeev

[13 kopecks worth of stamps, cancelled at Kirilovka, Zaporozhskaya]

[Written in Ukranian] [TFR 14-22]

Good Afternoon! My esteemed friend Sergej V. Melnikov. I saw your article in the paper "Ukraine Youth" about the American soldiers. I want to tell you about a guy, whom you may want to seek out: Aleksej Stepanovich Kucheruk was born in 1915 in the city of New York. In 1917, his mother and father

moved to Russia, where they were robbed and his father [killed]. His mother died three years later from starvation. Thank God for children's boarding schools. He fought in the Second World War for an hour and was a prisoner in a German concentration camp for 5 years. [TFR 14-23]

He is now 77 years old and lives at the following address; Republic of Ukraine City of Pantaliya Dubnivskij Region Divnanska Oblast Kucheruk Aleksej Stepanovich

I ask that you not reveal where you got the information. It was not done for one million dollars, but out of gratitude for the good-hearted work you and your compatriots are conducting.

Wishing you Success, Mikola L. Bonyak God Be With You 7-04-92 [Envelope] [TFR 14-24] IPV News Inc. 30 Farragut St. Uniontown Pennsylvania 15401 U.S.A. Sergej V. Melnikov 265100 Pantaliya Dubnivskij Region Divnanska Oblast Bonyak, Mikola Leonodovich [TFR 14-25]

MIRAGE INFORMATIONAL-PUBLICITY BULLETIN #4 15 August 1992 Free

E X E C U T E, N O T P A R D O N! The last session of the Supreme Soviet approved a draft of the new Criminal Code of the Russian Federation on the first reading

The editorial staff was unable to track down the complete published text of the approved amendments, therefore we are listing only two short commentaries.

The Presidium of the Russian Parliament looked over a draft "About the Protection of the Constitutional Organs of the Government", which was prepared by the Committee for Legislation. The prepared draft asserts, that "governmental authority in the Russian Federation exists exclusively as bodies empowered by the Constitution", and "with a view to strengthening the defense of the constitutional bodies" adds some changes and additions to the Criminal Code. The well-known 70th [article], now calls for punishment of "appeals for the violent change of the constitutional system" and "the spreading of materials, containing such appeals". Whether mass media falls under this article, for publishing information about or having interviews with someone about these appeals, is not said. Observers expressed hope, that the matter would be settled with the help of the law about the press, and opened the following pages of the amendment... In a search for ways to defend constitutional bodies, a legislator went somewhat further, introducing a series of changes to the sentencing articles of the U.K. [Criminal Code], referring to it as a Special Section. In the opinion of experts, people who read the law for the first time experience a feeling similar to that of a famous literary hero reading a medical encyclopedia: it is difficult to find an article, under which an alert reader would not be able to use to confiscate, or to the extreme, to imprison. A group of deputies from both the left and right wings of Parliament were questioned, and expressed bewilderment at the considerable number of articles providing for the death penalty in the country's renewed legislation and are striving for its repeal, as is stated in the Constitution. Under Article 64, [you can be] executed for governmental treason under something as simple as "Escape Abroad or Refusal to Return from Abroad". Article 65 punishes in a similar manner for espionage, which is not only "the transmission, as well as the theft or collection with intent to transmit, to foreign governments... information, which constitutes a government or military secret", but also "the transmission or collection... of other information which is used to damage the interests of the Russian Federation". A number of parliamentary journalists have found themselves guilty in assembling "other information". [cont'd] [TFR 14-25 cont'd]

As several People's Deputies consider it, this is information that is fully able to cause damage, if not to the Russian Federation, then to someone in the administration. Articles of the law on "Subversion", "Sabotage" and "Contraband" are their own examples of humanism and legal wisdom. They call out for a series of commentaries. However, some of these commentaries will be dispelled after reading the explanation by the Committee on Legislation, which asserts the necessity for "bringing the Criminal Code in line with the reality of the present day".

A. Zu'chenko ("Nezavisimaya Gazeta", #130 from 10 Jul 92, Moscow)

[editor's note] By the way, on the last page of "Nezavisimaya Gazeta" the following information was given:"Reprinting abroad is allowed by agreement from the editorial staff". For various reasons we were not able to do that. We hope that the editorial staff of "Nezavisimaya Gazeta" will forgive us and not take the independent bulletin "Mirage" to court under Article 65 of the draft of the new Criminal Code of the Russian Federation.

"If a wife betrayed you, be glad that she betrayed you, and not the Fatherland". Apparently, that Chekhov phrase will soon be very popular in Russia. The point is, that in the last session of the Supreme Soviet, The Committee for Legislation introduced a series of amendments to the criminal code. Included in this is Article 64, which talks about punishment for treason against the Motherland, or more precisely, for governmental treason. Specifically, this formulation was suggested in an amendment. But the above-mentioned parliamentary committee did not stop at the replacement of the word "motherland" with the word "government". In a legislator's opinion treason against the government, except for the well-known acts, is now considered "FLEEING ABROAD OR REFUSAL TO RETURN FROM ABROAD TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION". This infraction is punishable up to the death penalty, with confiscation of personal goods. However, if after having been charged, it is found that he is not a spy, then he will only go to prison. Only! What nonsense! Right? I think, and readers will agree, that everyone expected a stormy parliamentary debate on this more-than- questionable amendment. But the last session presented a surprise. The amendment was approved in it's first reading WITHOUT DISCUSSION!!! The specter of communism, having grown tired of roaming around Europe where two friends Karl and Friedrick started it up many years ago, was hovering in the hall during the voting. The final vote on this draft is expected in the fall.

Yu. Kotov ("Vestnik", #4001 from 6 Aug 92, Toronto)